



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

May 1, 2023

April 13 Meeting



Michelle Weissman

At our April 13 meeting, **Terry Kennedy** introduced the speaker **Michelle Weissman**, Development Officer for the **Sixth Street Shelter** in Allentown. That facility is one of 13 programs operated by Community Action Lehigh Valley (CALV). Families who are homeless can stay at the facility for 60-90 days. CALV operates longer-term housing at 7th & Turner Streets in Allentown, and Ferry Street in Easton. Michelle emotionally recalled her own plight as a homeless person. She had to wait 2 years for suitable housing. At the Sixth Street Shelter, there is a Family Resource Center that provides Financial Literacy courses for youth and adults, Resume Writing classes, homework help for children, and internship opportunities through LV CareerLink. The shelter also provides case management services, group counseling, arts & crafts, and reading nights with the kids. Their caseworkers work closely with each family. A major problem has been

the lack of affordable housing in the area. So far, only four landlords in Allentown are providing transitional housing. There is currently a 3 month waiting list at the shelter. Like many non-profits, they are struggling with funding. Emergency COVID funding is gone, and other funding has shifted to "Housing First" programs. Michelle handed out flyers about their upcoming fundraiser, the Highmark Walk at DeSales University on June 3. We asked about the status of our Foundation's \$1,000 grant presented to Sixth Street Shelter this past December. They have not as yet purchased art supplies and equipment. They will as soon as the Family Resource Center is completed. We will continue to support this important program in the years ahead.

At this meeting, we introduced our newest member, **Karen Baker** of Topton, Pa. She recently moved to our area from Asbury Park, NJ where she was Secretary of the Kiwanis Club there. When she relocated to the Lehigh Valley she sought out a local Kiwanis Club to join. We were very pleased to accommodate her request. Karen works from home as a quality control officer for a health care company. She is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. and graduated from Slippery Rock University. She has already become involved by volunteering for our Earth Day service project, and for possibly serving as our club's advisor to the Brandywine Heights HS Key Club. We plan to formally induct her as a member at our June 9 meeting. Welcome Karen into our Allentown Kiwanis family!

We also held our **Annual Meeting** on April 13, at which time we elected officers and our Board of Directors for the 2023-24 administrative year. President **Tom Harp** officially conducted the election. Regrettably, there were no new candidates for club President or Vice-President. Tom agreed to serve another term as President, but will actively try to recruit a VP prior to, or during the upcoming year. Incumbant **Enos Martin** was elected Treasurer and **Peg Harp** Secretary. Elected members of our Board of Directors include **Bob Ashcraft** and **Vic Mazziotti** (One Year Term) and **Deb Lamb** and **Terry Kennedy** (Two Year Term). We still have two vacancies on the Board that we hope to fill with new members in the year ahead.

Earth Day Tree Planting



It was a pleasant morning on Earth Day, April 22 when five members of our club helped out the West End Alliance, and City of Allentown, in planting 20 trees along Tilghman Street. Volunteers **Enos Martin**, **Deb Lamb**, **Karen Baker**, **Terry Kennedy** and **Tom Harp** met at 8:30 AM and were provided with a tree planting demonstration from the city parks department crew and an arborist representing the West End Alliance. Several days

before, the city used augers to dig up old soil and replace it with new topsoil. This made the planting locations fairly easy to dig up. The young trees were easy to maneuver into place, since they were not weighed down by root balls. After digging the holes, trees were put in place and we backfilled and tamped down topsoil. Wires were tied to the young trees and stakes to keep them in place. Finally, mulch was spread and watering skirts installed around the trees. This was a physically demanding but fun and rewarding project. The teamwork between volunteers and city workers was amazing!



Deb and Enos Digging a Hole



In Goes the Tree!



Karen Spreading the Mulch



Terry Pounding in Stakes

LVCC Picnic!

Our 13th Annual Lehigh Valley Children's Centers (LVCC) Picnic is less than two weeks away! It will be held on **Thursday, May 11** from **10 AM to 1 PM** at the Allentown Rose Garden Pavilions on Honochick Drive, behind Cedar Crest College. Early volunteers will begin setting up by 8:00 AM. Key Club volunteers will arrive around 9:30 AM. This year, over 70 volunteers from the William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Salisbury and Southern Lehigh High School Key Clubs will be joining us. Over 230 pre-school children from four LVCC centers in Allentown will be arriving and each class assigned to a group of Key Club members who will serve as their escorts and activity leaders. They will rotate from one of seven activity stations to another. Activities will include an obstacle course, parachute game, bubble-making station, arts & crafts tables, a science demonstration,

and new this year, a visit by the “Reptile Guy” and his pet snakes! Meanwhile, our club’s volunteers will help with table setup and food prep. When the children have completed their activities, we will be treating them to a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. Once again this year we have requested that an Allentown Fire Department truck stop by for the children to visit. LV Phantoms mascot MeLVin will be visiting between 11 AM and 12 Noon. We have invited Allentown Mayor Matt Tuerk to stop by. And we expect other surprises as well. We would like to thank members **Enos and Susan Martin, Deirdre Govan, Terry Kennedy, Tom Harp, Todd Siegfried, Deb Lamb, Vic Mazziotti, and Young Chang** for volunteering at this year’s picnic, as well as two members of the Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club. And we especially thank **Keith and Jessica Reynolds**, principal sponsors of the event, for their tireless efforts in planning the picnic, year after year. Our greatest reward is seeing the looks of joy on the children’s faces.



2022 Picnic Fun!

Service Leadership Programs

The school year is winding down, but our sponsored SLP’s remain active. **Enos Martin** reports that the Raub Middle School Builders Club has been assisting with food distribution every two weeks when the Second Harvest Food Bank truck parks outside the school. At next week’s meeting, they will be picking up litter on the school grounds. Their final meeting of the year will be on May 31, at which time they may be enjoying a pizza party with members of the Allen HS Key Club. **Deb Lamb** recently met with a representative of the United Way who mentioned that there will be a new community school coordinator assigned to the Union Terrace Elementary School in the fall. Deb will be contacting that person about officially starting a K-Kids Club there. And **Vic Mazziotti** has received a commitment on the part of the new principal at the Ramos Elementary School to restore the K-Kids Club there next fall. Our sponsored Key Clubs are all doing well. As mentioned above, they will be providing volunteers for the LVCC Picnic. We have also reached out to the Brandywine Heights HS about sponsoring the Key Club there. That club has been active for years without any affiliation with a Kiwanis Club. We hope to establish a relationship with their Key Club as we move forward with our commitment to Kiwanis youth programs.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – May 1923

The Kiwanis Club sent two delegates to the seventh annual convention of Kiwanis International which was held in Atlanta, GA, from May 28-31. Club president Orrin E. Boyle and club secretary Rev. Simon Sipple represented the Club at the convention.

At the May 31st meeting of the Club at the Hotel Allen, club member Lawrence Rupp gave a stirring address on some of the causes of the Civil War. He stated that more than state rights it was about whether our flag meant freedom for all under its folds or just the chosen few. Club member Jean Dulaney, an employee of the B. F. Goodrich Company, provided details of tire manufacturing. As part of the presentation, he gave two sets of automobile tires to two lucky members. In addition, he handed out a can of tire cement to each member and guest at the meeting. Forty-two veterans in attendance at the meeting for honored for their service to the country.

75 Years Ago – May 1948

On May 18, the Club held a 30th anniversary meeting at the Americus Hotel. Fourteen of the past 31 presidents were in attendance. Since the 1928 president Howard Frey had to relinquish his position due to a severe illness and subsequent passing, a second president finished the year, adding up to 31 presidents in 30 years. Nine of the first 31 presidents had passed away. Jean Dulaney, club president in 1932 and secretary beginning in 1937 was given a special award for his extreme interest in Kiwanis affairs. Unfortunately, he was not present due to his wife's illness. This was the first meeting he had missed in his 30 years as a member. **Note:** Not sure why this was billed as the 30th anniversary meeting since the club was chartered on March 18.

50 Years Ago – May 1973

From the May 6, 1973, edition of The Morning Call on an Allentown Kiwanis Club sponsored project:



25 Years Ago – May 1998

On May 9th, club members filled volunteer positions for the Eastern Pennsylvania Special Olympics. The Club annually supported this event which first began in 1962 as a day camp in the backyard of Eunice Kennedy Shriver (President Kennedy's sister) and her husband Sargent Shriver. The first Pennsylvania Special Olympics competition was held in 1970.

Club Anniversaries in May: Young Chang 18 years and Terry Kennedy 6 years.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – NO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING IN MAY DUE TO LVCC PICNIC ON SAME DATE.

SERVICE PROJECT – Thursday, May 11 – 13th Annual LVCC Picnic, to be held from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Allentown Rose Garden Pavilions.

SERVICE PROJECT (TENTATIVE) – Friday, May 12 – Mother’s Day Flower Pot Project at 2 LVCC Centers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, May 25, 5 PM on Zoom.



May Birthday



5 -Diane Lariar



- *Tom Harp, Editor*